

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: Takashi MIYAMATSU et al. | Confirmation No.: 4214 |
| Application No.: 10/588,263 | Examiner: KIM, PETER B |
| Filed: August 3, 2006 | Group Art Unit: 2851 |
| Customer No.: 30671 | |
| Attorney Docket No.: 01115_1014 | |

For: LIQUID FOR IMMERSION EXPOSURE AND IMMERSION EXPOSURE
METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 10, 2009, Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group I, which is identified as including Claims 1-19.

At the outset, Applicants note that PCT Article 19 amendments that were filed on August 3, 2006 as part of a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 do not appear to have been entered. The amendments include Claims 1-15 drawn to an immersion exposure liquid, Claims 16-19 drawn to various methods, and Claims 20-24 drawn to a liquid composition. Accordingly, Applicants request the entry and consideration of Claims 1-24 in the PCT Article 19 amendments.

Furthermore, Applicants note that Group I set forth in the Restriction Requirement is identified as being drawn to an immersion exposure liquid type and structure; however, original claims 17-19 are in fact method claims. Thus, the Applicants require the correct indication for the invention of Group I.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because the claims of the present invention appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of claims 1-24 as amended in the PCT Article 19 amendments be conducted.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9957 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 504213 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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